

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE:

JUAN CARLOS GIL,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA,
U.S.A., INC., JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A
THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE
RESTAURANT, and SALVATORE PIZZA
& PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA
& PASTA,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated mobility-impaired individuals (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), sues ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT And, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, (hereinafter "Defendants"), and as grounds alleges:

JURISDICTION, PARTIES, AND VENUE

1. This is an action for injunctive relief, a declaration of rights, attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*, (the "Americans with Disabilities Act" or "ADA") and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
2. The Court has original jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims arising under 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 42 U.S.C. § 12117(a).
3. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202,

and may render declaratory judgment on the existence or nonexistence of any right under 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*

4. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, is an individual over eighteen years of age, with a residence in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and is otherwise *sui juris*.

5. At all times material, Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., owned and operated a commercial building located at 1550 W 84th Street Hialeah, Florida 33014 (hereinafter the “Commercial Property”) and conducted a substantial amount of business in that place of public accommodation in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

6. At all times material, Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., was and is a Florida Profit Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business in Hialeah, Florida.

7. At all times material, Defendant, JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT, owned and operated a commercial restaurant located at 1548 W 84th Street, Hialeah, Florida 33014¹ (hereinafter the “Commercial Property”) and conducted a substantial amount of business in that place of public accommodation in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Defendant, JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT, holds itself out to the public as “The Original Ranch House Restaurant”.

8. At all times material, Defendant, JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT, was and is a Florida Profit Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida.

¹ This address is located within the commercial building and place of public accommodation at 1550 w 84th Street Hialeah, Florida 33014, that is owned and operated by landlord Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC.

9. At all times material, Defendant, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, owned and operated a commercial restaurant located at 1550 W 84th Street Hialeah, Florida 33014² (hereinafter the “Commercial Property”) and conducted a substantial amount of business in that place of public accommodation in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Defendant, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, holds itself out to the public as “Salvatore Pizza & Pasta”.

10. At all times material, Defendant, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, was and is a Florida Profit Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business in Hialeah, Florida.

11. Venue is properly located in the Southern District of Florida because Defendants’ Commercial Property is located in Miami-Dade County, Florida, Defendants regularly conduct business within Miami-Dade County, Florida, and because a substantial part(s) of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12. Although over thirty (30) years have passed since the effective date of Title III of the ADA, Defendants have yet to make their facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities.

13. Congress provided commercial businesses one and a half years to implement the Act. The effective date was January 26, 1992. In spite of this abundant lead-time and the extensive publicity the ADA has received since 1990, Defendants continue to discriminate against people who are disabled in ways that block them from access and use of Defendants’ businesses and

² This address is located within the commercial building and place of public accommodation at 1550 w 84th Street Hialeah, Florida 33014, that is owned and operated by landlord Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC.

properties.

14. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in 28 CFR 36.201 and requires landlords and tenants to be liable for compliance.

15. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, is an individual with disabilities as defined by and pursuant to the ADA. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, is substantially limited in major life activities due to his impairment and requires the use of a wheelchair to ambulate.

16. Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., owns, operates and/or oversees the Commercial Property, its general parking lot and parking spots.

17. The subject Commercial Property is open to the public and is located in Miami, Florida, in Miami-Dade County.

18. The individual Plaintiff visits the Commercial Property and business located within the Commercial Property regularly, to include a visit on or about May 18, 2022, and encountered multiple violations of the ADA that directly affected his ability to use and enjoy the Commercial Property and business located therein. He often visits the Commercial Property and business located within the Commercial Property in order to avail himself of the goods and services offered there, and because it is approximately seventeen (17) miles from his residence and is near other businesses he frequents as a patron. He plans to return to the Commercial Property within two (2) months of filing this Complaint, specifically on or prior to September 13, 2022.

19. Plaintiff resides nearby in the same County and state as the Commercial Property and the business located within the Commercial Property, has regularly frequented the Defendants' Commercial Property and the business located within the Commercial Property for the intended purposes because of the proximity to his residence and other businesses that he

frequents as a patron and intends to return to the Commercial Property within two (2) months of filing this Complaint, specifically on or prior to September 13, 2022.

20. The Plaintiff found the Commercial Property, and the business located within the Commercial Property to be rife with ADA violations. The Plaintiff encountered architectural barriers at the Commercial Property, and business located within the Commercial Property and wishes to continue his patronage and use of each of the premises.

21. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers that are in violation of the ADA at the subject Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property. The barriers to access at the Commercial Property, and the business located within the Commercial Property have each denied or diminished Plaintiff's ability to visit the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property, and have endangered his safety in violation of the ADA. The barriers to access, which are set forth below, have likewise posed a risk of injury(ies), embarrassment, and discomfort to Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, and others similarly situated.

22. Defendants, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT and, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, own and/or operate a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201 (a) and 36.104. Defendants, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT and, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, are responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public

accommodation that Defendants, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT and, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, own and operate are the Commercial Property and Business therein located at 1548-1550 W 84th Street, Miami, Florida 33014.

23. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the described Commercial Property and the business located within the Commercial Property, including but not necessarily limited to the allegations in Counts I through III of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination at the Commercial Property, and business located within the Commercial Property, in violation of the ADA. Plaintiff desires to visit the Commercial Property and business located therein, not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the Commercial Property, and business located within the Commercial Property, but to assure himself that the Commercial Property and business located within the Commercial Property are in compliance with the ADA, so that he and others similarly situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the Commercial Property, and business located within the Commercial Property without fear of discrimination.

24. Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., as landlord and owner of the Commercial Property, is responsible for all ADA violations listed in this complaint. Defendant, JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT, as lessee of the Commercial Property Business is responsible for all ADA violations listed in Count II. Defendant, SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A

SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, as lessee of the Commercial Property Business is responsible for all ADA violations listed in Count III.

25. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the described Commercial Property and businesses located within the Commercial Property, but not necessarily limited to the allegations in this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination at the Commercial Property, and businesses within the Commercial Property, in violation of the ADA. Plaintiff desires to visit the Commercial Property and businesses within the Commercial Property, not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the Commercial Property and businesses located within the Commercial Property, but to assure himself that the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property are in compliance with the ADA, so that he and others similarly situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property without fear of discrimination.

26. Defendants have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying him access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property, as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 12182 et seq.

COUNT I - ADA VIOLATIONS AS TO
DEFENDANT, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC. – COMMON
AREAS

27. The Plaintiff adopts and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 26 above as though fully set forth herein.

28. Defendant, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC., has discriminated, and continues to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing, inter alia, to have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if a Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A list of the violations that Plaintiff encountered during his visit to the Commercial Property, include but are not limited to, the following:

A. Parking and Exterior Accessible Route

- i. Accessible spaces lack clear and level aisles as they have slopes >2%, endangering Plaintiff when unloading and violating the ADAAG and ADAS Section 502.

B. Entrance Access and Path of Travel

- i. Accessible routes have cross slopes >2%, creating hazardous conditions for Plaintiff in violation of ADAAG Section 4.3 and Sections 402 and 403 of the 2010 ADAS.
- ii. Accessible routes have changes in level of >3/4", creating hazardous conditions for Plaintiff violating ADAAG Section 4.3 and Sections 402 and 403 of the 2010 ADAS.
- iii. Curb ramps contain excessive slopes (>8.33 %), preventing Plaintiff from safe unloading violating ADAAG and ADAS Section 406.

COUNT II - ADA VIOLATIONS AS TO DEFENDANTS,
ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC. and JA RENDEROS CORP
D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT – INTERIOR

29. The Plaintiff adopts and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 26 above as though fully set forth herein.

30. Defendants, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC. and JA RENDEROS CORP D/B/A THE ORIGINAL RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT, have

discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing, inter alia, to have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if a Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A list of the violations that Plaintiff encountered during his visit to the Commercial Property, include but are not limited to, the following:

A. Access to Goods and Services

- i. Counters are mounted at a height in excess of 36", preventing Plaintiff from use, in violation of Section 7.2 (1) of the ADAAG.
- ii. Exterior tables lack the required knee and toe space depth of 17", preventing Plaintiff from use.

B. Restrooms

- i. Sink has exposed pipes that lack proper insulation, causing safety issues for Plaintiff violating Section 4.19.4 of the ADAAG.
- ii. Coat hook is mounted at a height > 48" AFF, denying access to Plaintiff and violating ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sec. 308.
- iii. Stall door is not self-closing and/or lacks proper hardware, preventing use by Plaintiff, violating 2010 ADAS Sec. 604.
- iv. Side grab bars do not extend 54" from the back wall, creating a hazardous condition for Plaintiff and violating the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sections 604 and 609.
- v. Rear grab bar is not provided in the stall, endangering Plaintiff and violating ADAAG Section 4.17.
- vi. Items mounted < 12" above the grab bar, preventing use by Plaintiff and violating the

ADAAG and 2010 ADAS.

- vii. Restroom lacks sufficient wheelchair turn-around space (60" diameter circle or a "T"), denying access to Plaintiff and violating 2010 ADAS.
- viii. The urinal is not accessible to Plaintiff as he could not fit his wheelchair in the space provided.

COUNT III - ADA VIOLATIONS AS TO DEFENDANTS,
ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC. and SALVATORE PIZZA &
PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA – INTERIOR

31. The Plaintiff adopts and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 26 above as though fully set forth herein.

32. Defendants, ALMACEN Y MUEBLERIA LA FLORIDA, U.S.A., INC. and SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, INC. D/B/A SALVATORE PIZZA & PASTA, have discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing, inter alia, to have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if a Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A list of the violations that Plaintiff encountered during his visit to the Commercial Property, include but are not limited to, the following:

A. Access to Goods and Services

- i. Counters are mounted at a height > 36", preventing Plaintiff from use and violating Section 7.2 (1) of the ADAAG.

B. Restrooms

- i. Plaintiff cannot access the restroom without assistance due to improper doorknob fitted on restroom door, violating Section 4.13.9 of the ADAAG.

- ii. Maneuvering space is inadequate, impeding Plaintiff from entering or exiting the restroom per 2010 ADAS Sec. 404.
- iii. Sink has exposed pipes that lack proper insulation, causing safety issues for Plaintiff violating Section 4.19.4 of the ADAAG.
- iv. Sinks mounted at a height > 34" to rims, denying access to Plaintiff and violating ADAAG Sec. 4.24 and 2010 ADAS Sec. 606.
- v. Coat hook is mounted at a height > 48" AFF, denying access to Plaintiff and violating ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sec. 308.
- vi. Paper towel dispenser is mounted at a height > 48" AFF, denying access to Plaintiff and violating ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sec. 308.
- vii. Stall door is not self-closing and lacks proper hardware, preventing use by Plaintiff, violating 2010 ADAS Sec. 604.
- viii. Side grab bars do not extend 54" from the back wall, creating a hazardous condition for Plaintiff and violating the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sections 604 and 609.
- ix. Rear grab bar is not provided in the stall, endangering Plaintiff and violating ADAAG Section 4.17.
- x. Toilet has improper centerline from side wall (16" to 18"), denying access to Plaintiff and violating the 2010 ADAS.
- xi. Toilet flush valve not mounted on wide side, denying access to Plaintiff and violating the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sec. 604.

RELIEF SOUGHT AND THE BASIS

- 33. The discriminatory violations described in this Complaint are not an exclusive list

of the Defendants' ADA violations. Plaintiff requests an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and barriers to access in conjunction with Rule 34 and timely notice. Plaintiff further requests to inspect any and all barriers to access that were concealed by virtue of the barriers' presence, which prevented Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, from further ingress, use, and equal enjoyment of the Commercial Property and the business therein; Plaintiff requests to be physically present at such inspection in conjunction with Rule 34 and timely notice. Plaintiff requests the inspection in order to participate in crafting a remediation plan to address Plaintiff's request for injunctive relief.

34. The individual Plaintiff, and all other individuals similarly situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities privileges, benefits, programs and activities offered by Defendants' Commercial Property and the business within the Commercial Property; and has otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendants because of the Defendants' ADA violations as set forth above. The individual Plaintiff, and all others similarly situated, will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy the discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Plaintiff further requests a remediation plan and the opportunity to participate in the crafting of the remediation plan.

35. Defendants have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying him access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or

accommodations of their places of public accommodation or commercial facility, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq. and 28 CFR 36.302 et seq. Furthermore, the Defendants continue to discriminate against Plaintiff, and all those similarly situated, by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

36. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law, will suffer irreparable harm, and have a clear legal right to the relief sought. Further, injunctive relief will serve the public interest and all those similarly situated to Plaintiff. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses from Defendants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.

37. A Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled when such removal is readily achievable for their place of public similarly situated, will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy the discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff require an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

38. Notice to Defendants is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiff

or waived by the Defendants.

39. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188, the Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to alter the property where Defendants operates their business, located within the Commercial Property located in Miami-Dade County, the interiors, exterior areas, and the common exterior areas of the Commercial Property and hotel business to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other mobility-impaired persons; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendants cure their violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, respectfully requests that the Honorable Court issue (i) a Declaratory Judgment determining Defendants, at the commencement of the subject lawsuit, was and is in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq.; (ii) Injunctive relief against Defendants, including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facilities; or to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require Defendants to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services; (iii) An award of attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205; and (iv) such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dated: July 21, 2022

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